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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/711,457	09/20/2004	David M Emerling	MASLIAC-51	5456

37690 7590 04/13/2007
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EXAMINER

BLANKENSHIP, GREGORY A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3612

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	04/13/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/711,457	Applicant(s) EMERLING ET AL.	
	Examiner Greg Blankenship	Art Unit 3612	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on response filed 12/21/2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 9/20/2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>2/12/2007</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-6, 10-13, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mills et al. (6,840,561) in view of Hier et al. (US 2003/0184064).

Mills et al. disclose an automotive sun visor that has a core member (12), a cover layer (14) and a support arm (16). The core member (12) has an outer surface. The cover layer is located on the outer surface of the core member. The support arm (16) is coupled to the core member (12) and adapted to mount the visor proximate the windshield of a vehicle. In reference to claim 2, the core member is formed from a polymeric material, polypropylene, having a hardness that is relatively higher than a hardness of the cover layer. In reference to claim 3, the core member comprises first and second sections (20,22) joined together in a confronting arrangement, as seen in Figure 13. In reference to claim 4, the first and second sections (20,22) are hingedly coupled together for folding toward the confronting arrangement by living hinge (24). In reference to claims 5 and 12, the cover layer substantially encapsulates the core member. In reference to 10, the core is made of a polymeric material. Then, the cover layer (14) is located on the outer surface of the visor core. Finally, the support arm is coupled to the visor core. In reference to claim 11, the core member (12) is formed with a first section (20) and second section (22), as disclosed on

lines 36-38 of column 3. Figure 2 shows the inner surface of the first core section (20) and the second core section (22). The core sections are arranged such that inner surfaces face one another so the first and second sections (20,22) may be secured together by locks (80), as disclosed on lines 46-48 of column 4. However, Mills et al. do not disclose forming the cover layer in place of a polymeric material such that the mirror is integrally molded with the cover layer.

Hier et al. teach forming a polymeric cover layer in place onto the outer surface of the harder core member of a vehicle interior part, as disclosed in Figure 7.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to cover the core member of Mills et al. with a formed in place polymeric cover layer, as taught by Hier et al., in place of the cover layer of Mills et al. to provide a seamless cover that requires less steps to manufacture.

3. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of references, as applied to claim 1, in view of Fischer et al. (GB2336577).

Mills et al., as modified, do not disclose the cover layer being textured to simulate fabric material.

Fischer et al. teach a polymeric covering material, polypropylene fabric, which is textured to simulate a fabric material.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to form the cover layer of Mills et al., as modified, with a polymeric material that has a texture that simulates a fabric material, as taught by Fischer et al., to provide the desired appearance and texture.

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4. Claims 8, 9, 14, 15, 17, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Mills et al. (6,840,561) and Hier et al. (US 2003/0184064), in view of Binish (5,720,509).

Mills et al., as modified, disclose a mirror (182) attached to the visor. However, Mills et al., as modified, does not disclose the mirror integrally molded with the cover layer.

Binish teaches integrally molding a mirror (25) into the cover layer (23) of a sun visor, as shown in Figures 2 and 6.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to integrally mold the mirror onto visor with the cover layer, of Mills et al., as modified, as taught by Binish, to securely connect the mirror to the sun visor without additional fasteners.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed 12/21/2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The applicant has argued the rejections of independent claims 1, 10, and 16 by stating there is no teaching or suggestion in Hier '064 to modify the sun visor of Mills '561 such that the separate cover material is replaced with an integral molded cover. The examiner disagrees because Hier '064 is only used to teach the claimed polymeric material of the cover layer of Mills '561 and the ability to form a cover layer on a core member of Mills '561. Hier teaches the use of polymeric material to form a cover material of an interior vehicle component. Hier teaches the method of forming a cover layer in place onto an outer surface of a core member of an interior vehicle component. These teachings are applicable to the interior component, a sun visor, of Mills. In reference to claims 6 and 13, molding the cover on "selected areas of said outer surface" is obvious in view of the combination applied to claim 1 and 10 because the result of the combination is a

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cover integrally molded onto the outer surface. Any portion of the outer surface meets the limitation of the "selected areas".

6. Applicant's arguments, see Remarks, filed 12/21/2006, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 8, 9, 14, 15, 17, and 18 under 103(a) have been fully considered and are persuasive.

Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Mills et al. (6,840,561), Hier et al. (US 2003/0184064), and Binish (5,720,509).

7. Applicant's arguments filed 12/21/2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The applicant has argued the rejection of claim 7 stating there is no teaching to replace the fabric cover of Mills et al. with a cover layer that is integrally formed in place on the outer surface of the core. This feature has been discussed above in reference to the rejection of claim 1. Fischer et al.'s disclose a cover layer with a texture that simulates a fabric material in the abstract.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Greg Blankenship whose telephone number is 571-272-6656.

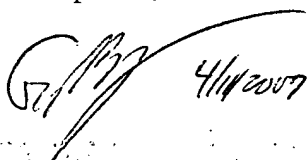
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenn Dayoan can be reached on 571-272-6659. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

gab

April 11, 2007

A handwritten signature in black ink, followed by the date "4/11/2007" written in a similar cursive style.